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NEWS AND NOTES

DETROIT ENGLISH CLUB

The Detroit English Club publishes its calendar for the year in a neat folder, which also shows the names of officers and standing committees. The calendar is as follows: January 25, "Demonstration of Oral English in the Grades," Miss Clara Beverly, supervisor of English in the grades; February 15, "Poetry and Freedom," E. L. Miller, Northwestern High School; March 15, "Demonstration of Oral English in the High School," Miss Flora Anderson, Southeastern High School; April 19, "A People's Theater," F. G. Tompkins, Central High School; May 17, "Detroit's Future as an Art Center," Leonard Cline, of the *Detroit News*. The standing—and really active—committees are (1) Junior High School Research, (2) Senior High School Research, (3) Junior College Research, (4) Speech Research, (5) Elementary School Research, and (6) Library Research. During the past year the membership has doubled, and yet they are conducting a fresh membership campaign.

NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

English teachers and school librarians within hailing distance of Boston are fortunate in the opportunities presented by the Saturday Book Conferences. These conferences are conducted by the New England Association of School Librarians in co-operation with the Bookshop for Boys and Girls and are designed to bring to the notice of those interested books of definite value to boys and girls. The committee in charge presents a most attractive list of subjects to be dealt with by men and women whose experiences have qualified them to speak with authority on the topics assigned. Opportunity is given at the close of each talk for discussion and examination of the books mentioned by the speaker. The conference has already given or arranged for these topics: "War Books for Peace Times," "High-School Fiction," "French Books for Young Americans," "Travel and the Sea," "Books of Other Countries," and "Summer Reading."

OUR BRITISH COUSINS

In connection with the annual general meeting of the Modern Language Association (British) at University College, London, there were two sessions of the English Association. One of these, a joint meeting with the other four associations represented on the Council for Humanistic Studies, namely, the Classical, Geographical, Historical, and Modern Language Associations, was presided over by the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P., president of the Board of Education. The chief address was by Sir Frederic Kenyon, K.C.B., F.B.A., chairman of the Council for Humanistic Studies, on "Co-operation in Educational Progress." The other session was, as is common there, given over to a scholarly lecture, this time on "Sir Walter Raleigh," by Mr. Edmund Gosse, C.B., LL.D.

THE PERIODICALS

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EDUCATION

Professor Elwood, of the University of Missouri, is well known for his valuable discussions upon the social phases of education. In the February number of the *Educational Review* he writes interestingly of the "Reconstruction of Education upon a Social Basis." In his view social reconstruction is a serious business upon which we are forced to enter. We must build, moreover, not merely for the social present, but even more for the social future. America must face the task of leadership in civilization for many years to come. The question, then, as to what education is of most worth is pressing. Professor Elwood holds that language-study, particularly the study of English, is fundamental. There must be the possibility of perfect communication. In the second place, there must be wide and profound study of social life. Even in the grades simplified studies of our home life, community life, industry, government, history, and national ideals are possible. These in essence are training in moral ideals. Finally, socialized education must make adequate provision for vocational training conceived in a broad sense as applying to all workers and as involving first of all the ideal of service.

PROBLEMS OF SECURING PEACE

The president of the League to Enforce Peace, A. Lawrence Lowell, of Harvard University, sets forth in the *Civic Federation Review* of January 25 his views as to how the League of Nations should be organized. He passes in review the difficulties of establishing the new nations

and preventing future wars. He meets objections to the League of Nations by pointing out that it is no argument to contend that the league cannot be perfect from the beginning. Neither will it interfere with our sovereignty. Congress will not be bound either to declare war or to make peace. It will have simply provided for it the basis upon which to do either. The essence of the idea of a League of Nations is that the peoples who wish to be orderly must get together and as fast as possible bring into their circle those who for the present show signs of wishing to be disorderly.

LATIN AND ENGLISH

In the *Classical Journal* for October, 1918, appeared an article which has much more of meat in it for English teachers than the numerous pleas for the study of Latin which have recently been made. The writer, Miss Jennie Green, of the State Normal School at Kirksville, Missouri, describes her attempt to give a short course in English derivatives in connection with Latin. She had discovered that of the nineteen thousand Latin students in Missouri only two thousand go beyond the second year. It seemed to her, therefore, practical wisdom to plan for the seventeen thousand rather than for the two thousand. She found very little material available for her course and believes that textbooks should be prepared to aid teachers, inasmuch as comparatively few Latin teachers have had the opportunity of broad courses providing the necessary philological training for a sound teaching of derivatives.

ENGLISH IN THE PHILIPPINES

With October, 1918, the *Philippine Journal of Education*, a new monthly magazine, began publication. In this number appeared an interesting article on "The Filipino Teacher of English in the Secondary Schools," by Paul L. Pearl, who gives the course on the teaching of English in the University of the Philippines. Professor Pearl's ideals are both national and educational. First, he believes the teaching of English should give the Filipino people a working language tending to unify the several peoples who are at present shut off from one another by lack of a medium of communication. The educational ideal refers to the development of character and the socialization of the individual student. Composition and literature, if properly taught, will make the student *think* better and *feel* better. The entire article breathes the spirit of present-day English teaching as applied to the special conditions of the Philippines. Perhaps in a future number of the *English Journal*

Professor Pearl may tell somewhat more in detail about English work in the Islands.

A WASHINGTON-LAFAYETTE SCHOOL FOR BOYS IN FRANCE

Readers of the *English Journal* will be interested in hearing about the proposed plans for a Washington-Lafayette School for Boys in France. The proposal is set forth by Henry F. Osborn in *School and Society* for February 8. Mr. Osborn had access to the minutes of a meeting held in Paris last March and presents these with a brief comment of his own. In general the object of the school seems to be to set up in Paris an example of the American method of instruction. What this method is conceived to be is set forth by M. Buisson, commissioner of education in France, who declared that in America pupils do not listen to a course, they *participate* in it—they *do something*.

ONE MALADJUSTMENT OF COLLEGE WORK

Further testimony as to the need of professional training for would-be college teachers appears in an article by L. W. Webb in *School and Society* of February 1. The writer, after having lectured to his class on the necessity of scientific procedure in educational work, requested the students to write a brief paper on the topic, "If the Past Got Along without Scientific Education, Why Do We Need It?" The best paper was handed in by a young lady who had taught two years. She was graduated at the head of her class from a leading state university. When she got into the practical work of teaching, however, she very soon found that the game was a new one. She did not understand children nor modern educational methods, and therefore simply tried to get the children through the textbook by the end of the year. She came to the conclusion that if every other profession demands a thoroughly scientific preparation, education is probably no exception. One who has had no professional training may learn a great deal by practical experience, but meantime it is very hard on the children.

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

The *Nation* of Saturday, February 8, prints *in extenso* General Smuts's plan for a League of Nations.—Recent bulletins of the Bureau of Education at Washington are entitled as follows: "Teaching American Ideals through Literature," by Henry Neumann; "Educational Directory

of 1918-19"; "Cardinal Principles of Secondary Education as Set Forth by the N.E.A. Commission on the Reorganization of Secondary Education"; "American Agricultural Colleges," by Chester D. Jarvis; "Vocational Guidance and the Public Schools," by W. Carson Ryan, Jr.; and "Manual of Educational Legislation."—The Department of University Extension of the Board of Education of Massachusetts issues an interesting pamphlet on "English for American Citizenship" as a general guide to those developing work in Americanization.—The Department of Educational Investigation of the Public Schools of Boston has issued an account of the organization and administration of intermediate schools in that city.—The General Education Board, 60 Broadway, New York, has issued an exhaustive survey of the Gary Public Schools, made by Abraham Flexner, Frank P. Bachman, George D. Strayer, and others.—The Federal Board for Vocational Education issues as recent pamphlets, "Factory Wood-Working Trades," "Forestry Pursuits," "The Practice of Medicine as a Vocation," "The Metal Trades," "Army Occupations," "Automobile Maintenance and Service," and "Employment Management."—Teachers in the city high schools would find much that is suggestive in a new periodical published in Detroit called *The Day's Work*.